Not sure which side you're on?

Reading this will help you to decide

Like most Americans you are probably opposed to censorship. You might have heard, though, that adult tapes drive people to rape, or that a lot of children rent the tapes. So you still may have some lingering doubts about the wisdom of allowing such tapes into the community.

*We recognize your concerns and would **like**, in the following series of questions, to **help** resolve your doubts. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact SCBC at our Hotline number: 513-677-6055.*

Let's get right to the point. The Citizens for Community Values (CCV) group, which wants censorship, says that more than 70 percent of all adult video rentals are to minors. Is that true?

It is certainly not true. For instance, in Butler County, no video store will rent adult films to anyone under 18. First, the stores require that anyone who wants to rent a tape become a member. They require at least a driver's license as ID, and often a credit card, too. Not too many minors can fake both of these (and look adult). Later, stores require that you produce your membership card and ID every time you want to rent an adult tape.

So, you see it is much tougher for a minor to rent an adult video than to get served alcohol in a bar. It probably happens, but not very often.

CCV members usually consider many of today's most popular films, such as "Bull Durham" or Disney's "Pretty Woman" to be pornography, so they apparently include these in their estimates.

In any case, does the CCV stand at all video store counters checking to see who rents what? How could they possibly know?

Why are the politicians afraid to debate?

The subject of censorship in Butler County is so important that a local radio station recently offered an hour of live air time to both sides to debate the issue.

What was the reaction of the politicians who were invited? Naturally, they refused to come before the community to clarify and defend their support for censorship.

The director of Stop Censorship in Butler County, Nicolas Martin, challenged Mayor Olivas, Sheriff Holzberger, and Prosecutor Holcomb to debate him, but by our publication deadline Mr. Olivas and Mr. Holzberger had refused the challenge. Mr. Holcomb had not responded.

Perhaps there is something the politicians don't want us to know. Like maybe the bill to taxpayers for their shenanigans?

Can't minors watch the tapes that their parents bring home?

It is possible, just as it is possible for a child to get into the liquor cabinet or Dad's cigarettes.

We believe in the sanctity of the family, and that it is the responsibility of parents to set the rules for children.

The CCV has the extreme idea that adults shouldn't watch or read anything which is not also appropriate for children, which means that many of the most popular books, tapes, and magazines adults buy would be banned. If the CCV got its way, you wouldn't be allowed to have HBO, Cinemax, or Showtime in your home because they consider the movies shown on those cable channels to be obscene.

Still, can't children be harmed if they view these tapes?

Let's be clear. While the films are strictly for adults, there is no proof that seeing a film will harm a child, or wreck his values.

Again, it all comes down to the parents' responsibility to properly raise their child.

Adults do all sorts of things which are risky to children. The CCV doesn't ask for cars to be banned, even though thousands of children are regularly killed or maimed in car accidents.

Should we ban guns because kids accidentally shoot themselves playing with what they think is a toy? Even though guns can be quite dangerous, it's not illegal for minors to use them. We expect parents to lock up weapons, and teach children how to use them properly when they are old enough.

Should we ban alcohol because many children naughtily get into the liquor cabinet? Thousands of children overdose on alcohol and many die, but we adults accept that risk in return for our freedom of choice.

Should we ban drain cleaners or laundry bleach because thousands of kids are poisoned by them? Should we ban cigarettes because kids can get their hands on them? Should we ban library books that are intended for adult reading?

There is a long list of things which are appropriate for adults but not for children. We often take steps to protect children—like requiring car seats, and prohibiting them from buying alcohol—but we do not make things illegal for adults simply because they present some risk to children. We expect parents to keep those risks to a minimum.

Let's put things in perspective. Would you rather discover that your child had snuck a peek at an adult film, or get a phone call from the hospital letting you know that your baby was just in a car accident? The first might deserve a good spanking, the second is too horrible to even think about.

I've heard that pornography makes people commit sex crimes, like rape. Is that true?

If that were true then human beings would have no more free will than squirrels.

Both Christianity and American justice are based on the idea that adults are responsible for their behavior. If you were on a jury, would you vote "not guilty" just because a defendant said "Alcohol made me do it," or "God told me to do it."? No, you would hold the criminal responsible for his actions.

On the other hand, we don't put people in jail for their ideas. Haven't you ever thought to yourself, "I'd just like to wring his neck!"? Does that make you a murderer? No. Crimes are actions, not ideas.

Books, tapes, and records all contain ideas, but they don't ***make*** anybody do anything. People decide of their own free will how to act. No feeble excuses.

According to the FBI, during the same period that adult video tapes became widely available in the U.S., attempted rape ***dropped*** by one-third! Adult tape rentals went up, rape went down.

In the city of Hamilton, the percentage of verified rapes dropped by 25 percent from 1989 to 1990, the last period for which statistics are available.

Not only do adult tapes not ***make*** people rape, they just might make it ***less likely*** that a person will want to rape. That was the finding of the most complete official study of pornography ever done in the U.S.

The Presidential *Commission on Obscenity and Pornography* spent two years and $2 million studying the issues. They concluded that it would be in the interest of the country to repeal laws prohibiting "the sale, exhibition, or distribution of sexual materials to consenting adults."

What if I don't think the tapes are harmful, but I do think they are immoral?

We strongly support your right to hold and express that opinion. Many SCBC members are offended by adult tapes and would never rent one. But they do not believe it is the job of government to police the moral choices of Americans.

If government can decide today what moral views are legal, can't it decide tomorrow what religious views are acceptable?

There are various religious groups in this country that think dancing, cars, eating meat, drinking alcohol, or using air conditioners are immoral. How would you react if those groups tried to get government to make all of those things illegal? Should everyone else be prohibited from dancing because some people think it is immoral? Should everyone else be prohibited from renting adult tapes because some people think it is immoral?

The SCBC isn't "for" adult tapes, we are just "against" censorship.

To bring the discussion to a close, let us turn the tables and ask you a question.

Can you think of any country in history that was made a better place by enforcing censorship?

Bill of Rights. Article 1.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievance.

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How far we've come...

Give me Liberty, or give me death!
Patrick Henry, Revolutionary leader, 1775

I go for the censorship entirely…I don't tell people what they can watch, just what they can't.
Vi Gunn, Middletown City Commissioner, 1991

We need your help to

Stop Censorship in Butler County

On the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, Butler County officials have declared war on religious freedom.

They say we can't be trusted to raise our children, choose our own morality, or decide for ourselves what to watch on TV.

They demand new laws allowing the police to forcibly enter our homes to confiscate unapproved movies.

We can't let that happen.

Won't you help us to save the Bill of Rights?

Yes, I want to help Stop Censorship in Butler County (SCBC) to protect our precious freedoms. I don't want government officials telling me how to raise my family or what my moral beliefs should be. I don't necessarily approve of adult films, but I am strongly opposed to government censorship. I want to help by…

____Volunteering to distribute literature. _____ Talking to my friends
____Hosting an SCBC speaker at a meeting in my home.
____ Writing a letter to the newspaper. ____ Calling my elected officials.

I have enclosed a $_____ contribution to support the Bill of Rights.

My name is _____
Address _____
City, ZIP _____ Phone no. _____

Mail to: Stop Censorship in Butler County, PO Box 18-771, Fairfield OH 45018

Special Edition!
Censorship
The Dark Cloud Over Butler County
Who are the Video Ayatollahs?
Do you need the Sheriff to tell you what to watch on your TV?

Stop Censorship in Butler County

People in your community standing up for the Bill of Rights

On December 15, 1991, we Americans will acknowledge the 200th birthday of our greatest possession: the Bill of Rights.

At the same time that this momentous date approaches, our local officials are working energetically to rip the heart out of the First Article of that Bill of Rights. That is the one which guarantees that government will not endorse any particular religion. It also protects our right to free speech, a free press, and peaceable assembly. We generally refer to it as the First Amendment.

These Constitution Killers want to force—not ask, convince, implore, or beg—but **force**, each of us to watch only movies which are government approved. Butler County Prosecutor John Holcomb, and Sheriff Richard Holzberger are asking for new laws allowing the arrest any person who has possession of a tape which they think is obscene.

Think about it. The officials you elected want laws which will allow them to smash down your door and arrest you for keeping video tapes in your home. Not child porn, mind you, but tapes made by consenting adults, starring consenting adults, rented by consenting adults. If they get these new laws, the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights will be the occasion of a funeral, not a celebration, because as far as Butler County is concerned the First Amendment will be dead.

This is exactly the sort of tyranny which our founders risked their lives to thwart. It is also why Stop Censorship in Butler County (SCBC) was formed.

SCBC is people of many different faiths, from fundamentalists to free thinkers. We are conservatives and liberals, Democrats and Republicans, men and women. Americans first. In joining with SCBC we express our appreciation for the heroic pioneers who made this wonderful country possible. And we devote ourselves to protecting their most important legacy: the Bill of Rights. Won't you join us?

Rome had censorship.
Nazi Germany had censorship.
Iraq has censorship.
China has censorship.
The Soviet Union has censorship.
South Africa has censorship.
Cuba has censorship.
Iran has censorship.
Ethiopia has censorship.
Singapore has censorship.
North Korea has censorship.
Vietnam has censorship.

America doesn't have censorship.

Let's keep it that way.

Stop Censorship in Butler County

513-677-6055

PO Box 18-771, Fairfield, OH 45018

Censorship in Butler County

Violating the principle of religious freedom

Compulsion in religion is distinguished from compulsion in every other thing. I may grow rich by an art I am compelled to follow; I may recover health by medicines I am compelled to take against my own judgement; but I cannot be saved by a worship I disbelieve and abhor.

Thomas Jefferson

One of the more galling misrepresentations by the people who want to ban adult video tapes is to suggest that America's founders would endorse their censorship efforts. It is hard to think of a more flagrant deceit.

We may not know what the signers of the Constitution thought of abortion, or zoning laws, or strip mining regulation, but we sure as heck know what they thought about government censorship: They detested it. We also know their view of religious compulsion: They abhorred it.

The fight for video prohibition is nothing more than an effort by a sect with certain rigid religious beliefs to impose those beliefs on everyone else. A tiny group whose values exclude sexual materials is hijacking the legal system to force the overwhelmingly Christian majority to obey, even though most people's religious beliefs may not forbid adult tapes or mandate censorship.

Our local Puritans like to say that none of the founders could anticipate the proliferation of sexual materials we have recently experienced. These censors delude themselves into believing that those who invented our system would have signed on to their moral crusade against video tapes. There were Puritans censors in America at the time of the Constitution, just as today, and the founders soundly rejected their ideas.

The founders, themselves, were no strangers to titillating materials. Ben Franklin, "father of the Post Office," wrote *Letter of Advice to Young Men on the Proper Choosing of a Mistress*, which a federal judge has said "a jury could reasonably find 'obscene'." The "father of the Constitution," James Madison, was fond of telling what we now call "dirty jokes." The libraries of literate Americans often contained copies of racy books like Tom Jones and Ovid's Art of Love.

Those books were loathed as passionately by the Puritans of colonial days as contemporary Puritans hate video tapes, and for the same reasons. The fact that our wowsers don't get charged up about "immorality" in books is probably due to the fact that they don't read much.

There will always be pious censors like the Citizens for Community Values. Some people will just never accept the idea that Americans are free people responsible for our own destinies. What is unforgivable is the obscene pandering to the bluenoses by elected officials. No self-respecting American should place his endorsement on a candidate who would strip the Constitution of value and treat citizens like prison inmates.

Just one more thing. There will be trials. Video stores will be raided. If you oppose censorship, please take the time to serve if you are called to jury duty. And, no matter how much the judge or prosecutor try to pressure you, keep in mind the following words of our second president, John Adams:

"It is not only [a juror's] right, but his duty…to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgement, and conscience, *though in direct opposition to the direction of the Court.*" Each juror has the responsibility to vote not guilty in an obscenity case if he or she believes that the law is wrong. To convict someone for breaking an unjust law is like taking a knife to the Constitution.

Do as I say, not as I do, you dirty #%@!

In 1981, the Baileyville, Maine school board voted to ban a book about Vietnam from schools because it contained "offensive and abusive language." A high school senior who objected to book banning sued the board to have the book returned to library shelves.

During her testimony at the trial, school board member Carol Ann Davenport, who voted to ban the book, was asked whether she had ever used any of the curse words she objected to. She said she never had.

However, when her former husband was called to the stand, he testified that Mrs. Davenport had "a general vocabulary of several four-letter words."

The ex-husband said that Carol Ann had used those words often, especially during the last six months of their marriage and in front of the children.

Incidentally, the U.S. District Court ruled that the school board was wrong in banning the book. The judge in the case said that "federal courts must remain on First Amendment alert in book banning cases…a less vigilant rule would leave the care of the flock to the fox that is only after the feathers."

A proud tradition of freedom

Since the time of Plato (who wanted to ban all poetry) there have been people arguing for censorship. America has had its share of Thought Police who wanted to censor materials they found offensive. Thankfully, in the land of the brave and the home of the free, we have a proud habit of resisting the intimidation and threats of would-be censors. The following quotes speak for the tradition of freedom which America embodies.

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

President John F. Kennedy

"Do not make us ridiculous. Do not imply to the world that those whom we elect to office have no comprehension of the intellectual freedom upon which the civilizations of the world have been built. Do not broadcast the idea that we are children. Do not conclude that somebody must tell us what we may see, and read, and hear, and think."

Boston *Herald*

"If the First Amendment means anything, it means that a State has no business telling a man, sitting alone in his own house, what books he may read or what films he may watch."

U.S. Supreme Court

The First Amendment guards "in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press; insomuch, that whatever violates either, throws down the sanctuary which covers the others."

"I am really mortified to be told that in the United States of America, [the sale of a book] can become a subject of inquiry, and of criminal inquiry too, as an offense against religion…Is this then our freedom of religion? Are we to have a censor whose imprimatur shall say what books may be sold and what we may buy? Whose foot is to be the measure to which ours are all to be cut or stretched?"

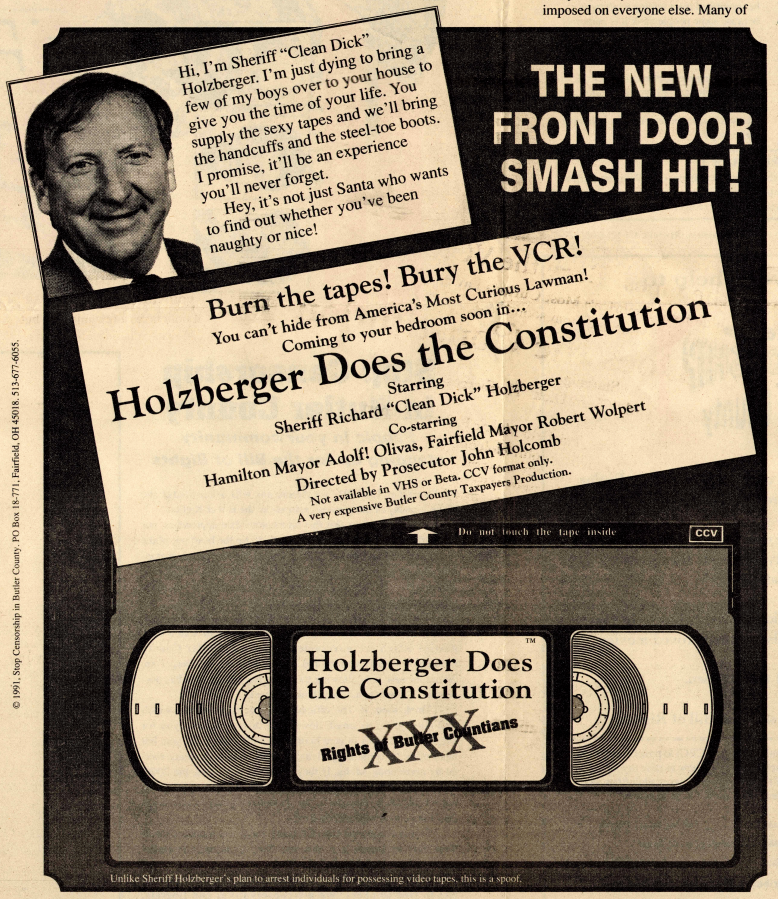
President Thomas Jefferson,
author, Declaration of Independence

"The arts cannot thrive except where men are free to be themselves and to be in charge of the discipline of their own energies and ardors. The conditions for democracy and for art are one and the same. What we call liberty in politics results in freedom of the arts."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Amen! "It's not my job as a legislator to tell you what to watch on your VCR."
John Stanzak, member, Hamilton City Council

Register today to vote for candidates who oppose censorship


Hi, I'm Sheriff "Clean Dick" Holzberger. I'm just dying to bring a few of my boys over to your house to give you the time of your life. You supply the sexy tapes and we'll bring the handcuffs and the steel-toe boots. I promise, it'll be an experience you'll never forget.
Hey, it's not just Santa who wants to find out whether you've been naughty or nice!
THE NEW FRONT DOOR SMASH HIT!
Burn the tapes! Bury the VCR!
You can't hide from America's Most Curious Lawman!
Coming to your bedroom soon in…
Holzberger Does the Constitution
Starring
Sheriff Richard "Clean Dick" Holzberger
Co-starring
Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas, Fairfield Mayor Robert Wolpert
Directed by Prosecutor John Holcomb
Not available in VHS or Beta. CCV format only.
A very expensive Butler County Taxpayers Production.
Do not touch the tape inside
CCV
Holzberger Does the Constitution
XXX
Rights of Butler Countians
Unlike Sheriff Holzberger's plan to arrest individuals for possessing video tapes, this is a spoof.

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Or Renting 'Pretty Woman'

"Puritanism—The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy."

H. L. Mencken

Except for me, of course

"As a former user of pornography, I am convinced that those who have reached the addicted, pornoholic stage, are sexual criminals or are heading in that direction."

Phil Burress, Citizens for Community Values

What about my library card, Mr. Mayor?

"If you have a video card in your wallet and that video store doesn't dance to your tune…***Burn that card!***"

Mayor Adolf Olivas

Here's how you can prevent censorship in Butler County

Give your support to Stop Censorship in Butler County

SCBC is leading the opposition to censorship in the county. We are getting the message out through public appearances, radio and TV interviews, posters, brochures like this one, and many other ways. We believe that this is an issue of religious freedom, and that the views of a tiny minority should not be imposed on everyone else. Many of the people who support SCBC are deeply religious themselves. Many have never seen an adult movie. But we all agree that it is a matter of personal choice and taste.

There are several things you can do to help SCBC fight censorship.

- Volunteer to distribute literature, either to people you know or as part of our door-to-door information campaigns. We also need help handing out literature in front of businesses.
- Make a donation of money or services. You can guess that producing leaflets like this one is not cheap. Use the coupon on the back to send whatever you can afford.

We also need the donation of printing, office supplies, and graphic design. Maybe you might volunteer to have a garage sale, or organize a wine party to introduce your friends to SCBC (sort of Tupperware-style). We are open to your help and ideas.

Write a letter to your local newspaper

It only takes a few minutes, but you can reach a large audience to let them know you support SCBC in fighting censorship.

When you write, always be upbeat and courteous. Remember, we wear the white hat and uphold the American tradition. Most people know that censorship is an ugly, unAmerican thing which they want no part of.

Just let everyone know how proud you are to be a free citizen of the greatest country in the world, and that you would like to keep it that way. Let them know you support the religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution, and tell them that you believe adults should be able to decide issues of taste and morality for themselves. And don't forget to ask how much censorship trials will cost taxpayers. Can't the money be better spent?

On The Record

Various city and county officials have already put their views about censorship on record. Here is how they line up, so far.

For Censorship

County Sheriff Richard Holzberger
County Prosecutor John Holcomb
Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas
Hamilton Vice Mayor Katherine Rumph-Cole
Fairfield Mayor Robert Wolpert
The entire Middletown City Commission

Against Censorship

Z. Ann Rowe, Hamilton Council
John Stanzak, Hamilton Council
Dan Crank, Hamilton Council

Contact your local official

Many elected officials tell us privately that they are against censorship, but they are afraid it will cost them votes to say so publically. You might give a call to your elected official to let him or her know that you will pull the lever next election for candidates with the courage to oppose censorship and the wasting of tax money. Tell them you support the efforts of Stop Censorship in Butler County. Above all, be considerate and friendly. We're the good guys.

You can get in touch with the appropriate official at the following numbers:

- Hamilton Council, 868-5834
- Hamilton Mayor, 868-5939
- Fairfield Council, 867-5383
- Fairfield Mayor, 867-5374
- Middletown Commission and Mayor, 425-7831
- Oxford Council and Mayor, 523-2171
- Sheriff Holzberger, 887-3047
- Prosecutor Holcomb, 887-3474

Who are the Video Ayatollahs?

In Iran, the police are constantly on alert. No, not for shoplifting. What really gets their dander up is…a woman wearing stockings, or makeup, or nail polish. The punishment for any woman caught indulging in these supposedly immoral vanities can be savage, including public beatings. This bizarre policy is directed by the Ayatollahs, Iran's clergy.

America doesn't have a clergy with formal political powers. Instead, we have politicians, like Holzberger, Holcomb and Olivas who, representing groups like the CCV, use the secular powers of government to impose moral and religious views on the rest of us. Iran's Ayatollahs ban makeup on women. Ours want to ban adult video tapes. What's next? Ban Madonna?

Sex, Lies & Videotape

The naked truth about Mayor Olivas' lies

Hamilton's Mayor, Adolf Olivas, is known for two things. He is insufferably arrogant, and he is rigidly puritanical.

Both of these characteristics were on display when Mr. Olivas strutted his stuff in front of the Citizens for Community Values' White Ribbon Against Pornography Day rally.

The Mayor was obviously enjoying himself when he lustily declared "Butler County you are sick," and wowed the folks with talk of a "lovemaking scene with a broom handle, or with a shovel, or with pain, or with blood, or with human excrement…"

What Mr. Olivas didn't know was that his speech was being videotaped by someone who would replay the mayor's words, publish them, and ask the mayor to account for them.

For, you see, Mr. Olivas told some whopping great fibs in his speech. He bore the kind of false witness against his neighbor which the Ten Commandments so categorically prohibit.

The mayor boldly announced that video stores in Butler County carry child pornography. Here is what he said:

"I'm not talking about the calm stuff. I'm talking about tapes that exploit children, that molest children; that show children being raped," the mayor said. "I know of no individual that I would respect enough to call a friend or even associate [with] who would share in the profit of child molestation or a woman's rape. But that is what each and every one of us tolerates if we tolerate video stores to sell this pornographic trash that they are doing. We are allowing organized crime to profit. And when organized crime profits we will have drugs on the street corners, our children will find it easier to buy drugs than to graduate from high school. And that's not the Butler County that I wanna live in, nor that you wanna live in. And that's what we have to clean up."

Well. If a reasonable person had been present he might have asked the mayor a few probing questions.

For instance, which video store is renting this vile and illegal child pornography? If the mayor knew that child pornography is being rented or sold, wasn't he derelict in not having the perpetrator arrested? Why had he never mentioned the availability of child pornography in the county prior to this censorship rally? Shouldn't residents expect officials to act immediately against "tapes that exploit children, that molest children; that show children being raped"?

Lest he be misunderstood, the mayor ended his speech by asking the crowd "how much more shouldn't I hurt as the mayor of a community of 65,000 when we have purveyors of child pornography who think it's legal?" And how much more should we all hurt as citizens in a town where the mayor knows child porn is being sold and doesn't take action?

Rest easy, Hamilton, all is not lost. You see Mayor Olivas was just engaging in a little political leg pulling. He was just *using* the child porn issue to stir up the crowd. Granted, that does seem to exploit the very same kids the mayor claims to champion, but, heck, we all know how some politicians are.

At the May 22nd Hamilton City Council Meeting, an SCBC member stepped forward, asking the mayor point blank to identify a video store in the county which provided child porn. And after all the blowhard nonsense he said in his speech, this time Mayor Olivas owned up and admitted there were none. Period. Crisis averted.

The mayor also denied that he ever said there *was* any child porn. But you have just read his comments, taken directly from the video tape, and you can decide for yourself what kind of fool he takes you for.